



Mesa County FAIR



OPEN CLASS GUIDE



JULY 14-18, 2026

SUNSHINE &
SUNFLOWERS

Mesa County Fairgrounds
2785 Highway 50
Grand Junction, CO 81503
970-244-1834





The Mesa County Executive Fair Board

invites you to be part of our Community's
Fair!

2026 Mesa County Executive Fair Board

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Mesa County Fair Administration Office

Mesa County Fairgrounds
2785 Hwy 50
Grand Junction, Colorado 81503
Kyle Carstens, Fairgrounds Manager

Mesa County Fair 2026 Exhibitor's Guidebook Mesa County Fair: July 14th - July 18th, 2026

Table of Contents	Page
Rules, Regulations, & General Information	4-5
How and When to Enter	5
Fine Arts, Sculpture Fine Crafts & Jewelry, and Photography	6-8
Home Arts & Pottery	9-11
Quilting	11-12
Clothing Textiles & Needlework	12-13
Woodworking	13-14
Pantry Store & Food Preservation	15-17
Jams and Other Sweet Spreads Score Sheet	17
Exhibitor's Correction List	18
Jellies Score Sheet	19
Exhibitor's Correction List	20
Fruit Preserves Score Sheet	21
Baked Goods	22-23
Baked Goods Score Sheet	23
Agriculture & Horticulture-Garden & Crops	24-25
Agriculture & Horticulture Score Sheet	25
Floriculture & Flower Arrangements	26-27
Floriculture Score Sheet	27
Flower Arrangements Score Sheet	28
Beer & Wine	29
Liability Release to pick up Exhibits	30
2026 Open Class Exhibitor's Entry Form	3

Welcome Exhibitor's -

If you are coming back, or whether this is your first time we welcome you and hope you are looking forward to this 2026 Fair while exhibiting your talents, skills, or just plain old curiosities at this upcoming Fair. The volunteers and myself certainly are! Thank you, past volunteers, for your selfless time and energy. Thank you Department Leads, the many volunteers from RSVP, the past Ambassadors, and to those 4-H parents & kids who work the evening hours so the public can browse C Building where both our displays are housed during Fair. This community and myself are forever in your debt. All Volunteers are welcome. If you cannot volunteer, please consider a donation to the Fairgrounds Office for ribbons for the next year. See Kyle Carstens, Fairgrounds Manager.

Volunteer Processing Training & Orientation is June 15, 2026 at 10:00 AM. Sorry only dedicated individuals may apply up to June 15, 2026. All volunteers are responsible for their own shifts. All volunteer's emails or contact numbers will be available on June 16, 2025, for shift changes. It is MANDATORY to attend the Volunteer Processing Training & Orientation Meeting. Please coordinate all shift changes with the Open Class Superintendent via email or text message.

Scott Dederick Open Superintendent
email: dederick@1791.com

Check out our Open Class King/Queen of the Kitchen contest right here - 3 Years Running!

A FUN CONTEST IN OPEN CLASS: KING/QUEEN OF THE KITCHEN CONTEST: Winner of the King/Queen Contest Special Ribbon Award will be determined by the exhibitor who has the most points from ribbons awarded from total exhibits in the departments below. Exhibitors may have the maximum amount of entries according to the rules in each of the departments below. In case of a tie in points, the exhibitor with the most Fair Themes, Department Themes, Best of Show, Judges Choice or People's Choice Ribbons will be the King/Queen Kitchen Specialty Ribbon! Exhibits in the following Departments are entered into the contest for the kitchen and/or around the home: Baked Goods, Pantry & Food Preservation, Horticulture (Garden Crops), Floriculture, Beer & wine, Home Arts and Quilting.

Point System is as follows: **Fair Theme Award** - 7 points **Best of Show** - 5 points, **Judges Choice** - 4 points, **People's Choice** - 3 points, **Blue Ribbons**: 2 points, **Red Ribbons**: 1 point, **White & Green Ribbons**: 0 points/Not Eligible for Contest

Rules, Regulations and General Information for Open Class Exhibits

Please read all rules and regulations carefully, since important changes have been made.
All Exhibit information and entry forms are available online at mesacountyfair.org. Open
Class Exhibit Winners and Contest Winners will be posted on our website

The following Rules, Regulations and General Information apply to all Entries & Exhibitors

1. Mesa County Fair Exhibits are open to all Mesa County residents and only to Mesa County residents.
2. This Guidebook is published each year and lists all the various departments, divisions and classes that you can enter. After you select the appropriate departments and classes you wish to enter, fill out the Entry Form. An Entry Form is found in the back of this Guidebook, at the Fairgrounds Office or downloaded online at mesacountyfair.org.
3. All articles must be exhibitors own work and not previously shown at the Mesa County Fair.
4. Fill out your entry form completely. Make sure both the division number and class numbers are clearly listed on the form. **Do Not** enter Exhibit Tag #, it will be issued upon entry delivery or at Pre-registration (**after Friday June 26, 2026.**) Enter the class you feel best suits your entry. The judge or Open Class Superintendent may move an exhibit if they deem it is in the wrong class.
5. Exhibitors will be divided into certain sections for judging according to age, skill level or a professional who derives at least 25% of annual income using the exhibit of choice as follows:
 - (E) Elementary – Child 8 years old or younger
 - (Y) Youth – 9-13 years old.
 - (IY) Intermediate Youth 14-18 years old
 - (A) Adults 19 years old and older – Non Professional
 - (G) More than one exhibitor working on the same item. May be adult and child.
 - (C) Any Handicap that affect performance skills in that class.
 - (P) Adults who have income using exhibits entered. Must have at least 25% of yearly income with previous year using those exhibits entered. Exhibitor may file a business card at processing with the Open Class Superintendent.
 - (SS) Exhibitors 80 plus years old are designated at Silver Seniors.
 - (V) Veteran – Any Exhibitors who can show proof of valid DD Form 214 or VA Patient Card.

Fair Theme ribbons are awarded by members of the Fair Board during the week of the Mesa County Fair.

The Fair Theme for 2026 is “**Sunshine & Sunflowers**”

6. Exhibits for Open Class will be judged against every other exhibit(s) and a standard or ideal within the same class or division, using the American Judging system. The American Judging System is a common method in judging. Each entry is considered against every other entry and judged against a standard or ideal. The result is a rank order where the entry considered by the judge(s) to be the best is first, followed by second and so on. 1st, 2nd, 3rd and participant place ribbons are then awarded for each class as each article in each class deserves such merit. Then each Class 1st place winners will be judged against all other Classes in that Division for Division 1st, 2nd, 3rd and participant place ribbons. Upon determination of Division outcome all 1st place Division winners will be judged against all Divisions in Department main categories for awarding of Grand Champion and Reserve Champion (example Grand Champion Artwork). See departments individual rules as those rules are part of the judges scoring. Judges may use their own scorecard to award all ribbons. Some judges have provided their own score cards & are placed in the back of each department. Judge's Choice and Best of Show ribbons are awarded at the discretion of each judge within each department. All decisions from the judges are final. People Choice ribbons are awarded and determined by the highest number of votes placed by the fairgoers for that item during the week of the Mesa County Fair.

7. All judging is closed to the public and there is **absolutely no talking to the judges** from **ANYONE** while a judge is scoring ribbons. Exception is the judge's volunteer scribe to confirm comments on back of exhibitor tags, or the Open Class Superintendent for answering questions or moving classes for the judge, **at low voices**.

8. Greatest care will be taken in handling the exhibits, but no responsibility for loss or damage of any kind can be assumed by the Open Class Superintendent, the Open Class Department Leads to the Superintendent, Mesa County Fairgrounds or the Mesa County Executive Fair Board. Exhibitors must carry their own insurance on sensitive or highly valued entries.
9. The Mesa County Executive Fair Board and or the Open Class Superintendent reserves the right to reject any exhibit entered, registration or notice given to the Open Class Superintendent, or if department capacity has been reached on Entry Received Day.
10. When concerning Display Only exhibits, only space on the Exhibit Hall will dictate those exhibits. See Entry Receiving Dates for Display only Exhibits. (*) **All Display Only exhibits MUST be display ready** with a display only sign, explanation of the display, and hangers (for clothes), or the Display Only Exhibit(s) will be disqualified.
11. Grievances and protest – a grievance committee consisting of a member of the Mesa County Executive Fair Board, the superintendent or leader involved, and one disinterested party will make recommendations on all questions or rule, grievances or protests. Protests involving alleged major rule violations must be in writing and accompanied by a deposit of \$25.00 cash or certified check which will be forfeited if the protest is not sustained. Said protest must state plainly the cause of the complaint and must be delivered to a member of the Mesa County Executive Fair Board by the Open Class Superintendent within eight hours after the cause of the protest. The Grievance Committee’s decision is final.
12. Absolutely no one is allowed behind the processing table on processing days except the volunteers. This helps keep the Exhibitors exhibits safe and secure.
13. By signing the Open Class Exhibit Form exhibitors agree to all rules and regulations presented in the 2026 Open Class Guidebook pertaining to their participation. Please see certification at the bottom of registration form. All exhibits must remain throughout the current Fair year for the Five Best Days of Summer. Exhibitors may pick up exhibits on release day.

REMEMBER – REGISTRATION FORMS MAY BE DOWNLOADED AT mesacountyfair.org

Pre-registration ends June 26th at 5:00pm

Entry Receiving Dates:

Non Perishable Exhibits	(pages 6-14) and (Division 100-155)
	Friday July 10, 2026, 8:00 AM-2:00 PM
	Saturday July 11, 2026, 8:00 AM-2:00 PM

(*) Display Only Exhibits for Hobbies or Crafts:

Perishable Exhibits	(Pages 15-29) and (Division 156-184)
	Monday July 13, 2026: 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM
	Doors close promptly at 2:00 PM for Closed Judging

<u>Fair Dates:</u>	Tuesday July 14, 2026, through Saturday July 18, 2026
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<u>C Building Hours during Fair:</u>	Tuesday – Saturday 11:00 AM-9:00 PM
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<u>Entry Release Date:</u>	Sunday July 19, 2026 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
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NOTE: All entries not picked up on Sunday by 2:00 PM becomes property of the Mesa County Executive Fair Board for donations or auctions at their discretion. All ribbons will go back into inventory for the next year.

DEPARTMENT: FINE ARTS, SCULPTURE FINE CRAFTS & JEWELRY, AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Entry Forms: Pre-registration is always encouraged. **Pre-registration ends Friday, June 26, 2026, at 5:00 PM at the Fairgrounds Office.**

Entry Forms found at mesacountyfair.org Fair Theme for 2026 is "**Sunshine & Sunflowers**".

Exhibit must have been done between August 2025 and July 2026.

Exhibits Received Day: See Page 5.

Exhibits Released Day: See Page 5.

Artwork

Rules:

- Each exhibitor is limited to three (3) entries per class. Exhibitors name is not to be on the exhibit piece.
- Exhibit must have been completed between August 2025 and July 2026.
- All art exhibits must be framed and prepared for hanging with a **picture wire only – no exceptions.** **NO Walmart or Dollar Store frames allowed. Plastic frames come down on the floor and destroys the exhibit!**
- Longest side of the item to be no longer than 36". When wiring please consider the total weight of exhibit item. (Not over 50lbs).
- Oil and Acrylics must be framed, dry and ready to hang with wire attached for secure display.
- All watercolor, pastel, ink, and pencil pieces must be matted or framed and ready to hang with wire attached for secure display.
- All drawings must be original.
- Amateur and Professional entries will be judged separately in each category.
- No coloring pages allowed. See Home Arts for this class.

Judges will consider entries on the basis of:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ○ Balance of color, weight & space | ○ Presentation of subject/character |
| ○ Focal point & movement | ○ Technique |
| ○ Unity in color & design | ○ Expressiveness |
| ○ Perspective | ○ Framing & matting |
| ○ Values & value pattern | |

Divisions: 100-110

Division: 100 – Acrylic **Note:** if Acrylics are not categorized for Fine Arts they will go to Home Arts. **Bring your own stand with your name on it please.** Stands may be purchased at Walmart or the Dollar Stores.

Division: 101 - Oil

Division: 102 - Water Color

Division: 103 - Pastel

Division: 104 - Pencil (black or colored)

Division: 105 - Charcoal Classes

Division: 106 - Chalk Division

Division: 107 - Ink

Division: 108 - Mixed Media

Division: 109 - Murals

Division: 110 - Digital Painting – The artist used painting techniques to create the painting directly on the computer.

Classes: For Fine Arts Division 100-110

1. Abstract
2. Animals
3. Landscape or Seascape
4. Still Life (the exhibitor arranges at least 1 item – subject matter must be inanimate subject matter, typically nature or man-made objects.
5. Portrait (head & shoulders only)
6. Structures
7. Community – Community, school, holiday, or commercial theme
8. County Fair or Judge as “Fair Theme Award” (please place Fair Theme Ribbon on top of entry form).
9. Digital Art (All images created within and using the computer)
10. Any other Fine Arts Exhibit, please identify.

Grand Champion Artwork and Reserve Grand Champion Artwork will judge from 1st place winners from Divisions

100-110. 1st place winners from each division will be judge from the 1st place winners form Division Classes.

Ceramics

Rules:

- o Pre-registration is always encouraged. **Pre-registration ends Friday June 26, 2026, at 5:00pm at the Fairgrounds Office.**
- o Each exhibitor is limited to three (3) entries per class. Exhibitors name is not to be on exhibit piece.
- o Exhibit must have been done between August 2025 and July 2026.
- o All kits are acceptable and are required to be labeled as such.
- o Entry Forms found at mesacountyfair.org Fair Theme for 2026 is "**Sunshine & Sunflowers**".

Exhibits Received Day: See Page 5.

Exhibits Released Day: See Page 5.

Judges will consider entries on the basis of:

- o Originality of idea (absolutely no copying of any other piece)
- o Manner in which medium is used
- o Unity in color & design
- o Composition
- o Balance
- o Technique
- o Proper presentation of entry
- o Entry should always be an example of your best work

Divisions: 111-115

Division: 111 - Ceramic

Division: 112 - Sculpture

Division: 113 - Pape Mache

Division: 114 - Clay; Functional

Division: 115 - Ceramic Jewelry

Classes: For Ceramics in Fine Arts Divisions 111-115

1. Air Dry Clay – any clay which does not get fired or baked such as Crayola Model Magic. No Play Dough or Modeling clay.
2. Clay – Hand built pottery
3. Clay – Wheel thrown
4. Ceramics – Glaze application
5. Ceramics – Slip cast
6. Paper Mache
7. Ceramic Jewelry – A necklace and one (1) set of earrings counts as one (1) exhibit
8. Any other Ceramics item; please identify

Grand Champion Ceramics and Reserve Grand Champion Ceramics will judge from 1st place winners from Divisions 111-115.

1st place winners from each division will be judge from 1st place winners form Division Classes.

Fine Arts – Fine Crafts & Jewelry

(Using Precious Metals, Stones, Gems, Crystals, etc.)

- o Pre-registration is always encouraged. **Pre-registration ends Friday June 26, 2026 at 5:00pm at the Fairgrounds Office.**
- o Each exhibitor is limited to three (3) entries per class. Exhibitors name is not to be included on exhibit piece.
- o Exhibit must have been done between August 2025 and July 2026.
- o All kits are acceptable and are required to be labeled as such.
- o Entry Forms found at mesacountyfair.org Fair Theme for 2026 is "**Sunshine & Sunflowers**".

Exhibits Received Day: See Page 5.

Exhibits Released Day: See Page 5.

Judges will consider entries on the basis of:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| o Originality of idea (absolutely no copying of any other piece) | o Technique |
| o Manner in which medium is used | o Proper presentation of entry |
| o Entry should always be an example of your best work | o Unity in color & design |

Divisions:116-119

Division: 116 – Glass Craft

Division: 117 – Ceramics Craft

Division: 118 – Metal Craft

Division: 119 – Jewelry Craft -such as Wire Wrapping or Beading (using precious stones)

Fine Arts Crafts & Jewelry Divisions 116-119 Classes:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Any fused or stained-glass craft | 4. Any precious rocks, gems, crystals, or beads used in an item. Any combination may be used also. |
| 2. Any hand built or wheel thrown clay craft | 5. Any mixed media craft or jewelry, please identify. |
| 3. Any metal craft | |

Grand Champion Fine Arts – Fine Crafts & Jewelry and Reserve Grand Champion Fine Arts – Fine Crafts & Jewelry will judge from 1st place winners from Divisions 116-119.

1st place winners from each division will be judge from 1st place winners form Division Classes.

Photography

Rules:

- o Pre-registration is always encouraged. **Pre-registration ends Friday June 26, 2026, at 5:00pm at the Fairgrounds Office.**
- o Each exhibitor is limited to three (3) entries per class. Exhibitors name is not to be included on the exhibit piece.
- o All art exhibits must be framed and prepared for hanging with a **picture wire only – no exceptions. NO Walmart or Dollar Store frames allowed. Plastic frames come down on the floor and destroys the exhibit!**
- o All kits are acceptable and are required to be labeled as such.
- o Entry Forms found at mesacountyfair.org Fair Theme for 2026 is "**Sunshine & Sunflowers**".
- o Exhibit must have been done between August 2025 and July 2026.

Exhibits Received Day: See Page 5.

Exhibits Released Day: See Page 5.

Judges will consider entries on the basis of:

- o Originality of idea (absolutely no copying of any other piece)

- o Placement
- o Technique
- o Proper presentation of entry
- o Entry should always be an example of your best work

Divisions:120-121

Division: 120 – Color

Division: 121 – Black and White

Photography Division 120-121 Classes:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Abstract 2. Animals 3. Landscape or Seascape 4. Still Life (the exhibitor arranges at least three (3) items) 5. People or Children/Infants (singular or multiple) 6. Nature | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Structures 8. County Fair or Judge as Fair Theme Award. "Fair Theme" ribbon should be placed on the top of registration form. 9. Computer Generated Photography (all images created within the computer) 10. Any other Photography Class Subject, please identify. |
|---|--|

Grand Champion Photography and Reserve Grand Champion Photography will judge from 1st place winners from Divisions 120-121.

1st place winners from each division will be judge from 1st place winners form Division Classes.

DEPARTMENT: HOME ARTS & POTTERY

Entry Forms: Pre-registration is always encouraged. **Pre-registration ends Friday, June 26, 2026 at 5:00 PM at the Fairgrounds Office.**

Entry Forms found at mesacountyfair.org Fair Theme for 2026 is "**Sunshine & Sunflowers**".

Exhibits Received Day: See Page 5.

Exhibits Released Day: See Page 5.

Contest Note: This Department is a candidate for the **KING/QUEEN OF THE KITCHEN CONTEST**. See Table of Contents Pg. 3

Rules:

- o Each exhibitor is limited to six (6) entries per class. Exhibitors name is not to be included on exhibit piece.
- o Exhibit must have been done between August 2025 and July 2026.
- o All kits are acceptable and are required to be labeled as such.
- o Exhibit shall accompany a one-page story with before and after 4x6 in. pictures back to back in one (1) clear sheet protector.

Home Arts

Judges will consider entries on the basis of:

- o Originality of idea (absolutely no copying of any other piece)
- o Creativity
- o Technique
- o Proper presentation of entry (no soiled, pet hair or dirty items please)
- o Entry should always be an example of your best work

Exhibits Received Day: See Page 5.

Exhibits Released Day: See Page 5.

Divisions: 122-131

Division 122- Leather Craft Classes:

1. Any size Leather craft item tooled or un-tooled.
2. Any other Leather craft item, please identify.

Division 123 – Wall Pictures Classes:

1. Any Crafted Wall Picture hung or stand up on easel.
2. Any other Crafted Wall Picture, please identify.

Division: 124 – Dolls (non-cloth) Classes:

1. Under 11”
2. 11” to 18”
3. Any other Doll, please identify.

Division: 125 - Gourds Classes:

1. Overlay
2. Inlay
3. Carved
4. Beaded
5. Laced with Leather
6. Any other, please specify.

Division: 126 – Stone Art Classes:

1. Any Stone Art, please identify.

Division: 127 – Hobbies Classes:

1. Lego's
2. Knex
3. Steel Tec
4. Models
5. Doll Houses
6. Scrapbooking, not in an inappropriate subject
7. Any Calligraphy, not in an inappropriate subject
8. Any Dough Art
9. Basket may have stone or embellished inlay.
10. Coloring
11. Any other Hobby, please specify.

Division: 128 – Painted Fabric Craft Classes:

1. Wearing Apparel
2. Canvas Bag
3. Apron
4. Floor Cloth
5. Pillow
6. Table Runner
7. Wall Hanging
8. Tie Dye
9. Any other Painted Fabric Craft, please identify.

Division: 129 – Decorative Painting Classes:

1. Animals
2. Birds
3. Decorative Painting on Furniture or Other Objects (Ex. Wishing Wells, Grandfather Clocks)
4. Flowers
5. Folk Art
6. Landscape
7. People
8. Stroke Work
9. Gourds or any plant-based exhibit

Any other Decorative Painting item, please identify.

Division: 130 – Recycled Art Classes:

1. Tires
2. Woodend Items
3. Metal Items
4. Fabric Items
5. Mixed media (Any combination of above)
6. Any other, please specify.

“Fair Theme” should be placed on the top of the registration form if needed.

Grand Champion Home Arts and Reserve Grand Champion Home Arts will judge from 1st place winners from Divisions 122-130.

1st place winners from each division will be judge from 1st place winners form Division Classes.

Poetry

Rules:

- o Each exhibitor is limited to four (4) entries per class. Exhibitor s name is not to be included on exhibit piece.
- o Exhibit must have been done between August 2025 and July 2026.
- o Poems must be the original work of the exhibitor.
- o Poems must be not in a questionable subject or content. See General Rule #6.
- o Poems must be longer that one (1) page. Poems must be entered inside a clear sheet protector. A “back story” of how the poem was created may help the judge. The “back story” must also be in a clear sheet protector.

- o Poems remain the property of the authors and all submissions will be returned on Release Day.
- o Entry Forms found at mesacountyfair.org Fair Theme for 2026 is "**Sunshine & Sunflowers**".

Exhibits Received Day: See Page 5.

Exhibits Released Day: See Page 5.

Division: 131 - Poetry

Division 131 Classes:

1. Adventure
2. Nature
3. Love
4. Poem written for children
5. Jingles or Limericks
6. Any other Poem, please specify.

"Fair Theme" should be placed on the top of the registration form if needed.

Grand Champion Poetry and Reserve Grand Champion Poetry will judge from 1st place winners from Divisions 131 Classes.

DEPARTMENT: QUILTING

Entry Forms: Pre-registration is always encouraged. **Pre-registration ends Friday, June 26, 2026 at 5:00 PM at the Fairgrounds Office.**

Entry Forms found at mesacountyfair.org Fair Theme for 2026 is "**Sunshine & Sunflowers**".

Exhibit must have been done between August 2024 and July 2026. (**2 years**).

Exhibits Received Day: See Page 5.

Exhibits Released Day: See Page 5.

Contest Note: This Department is a candidate for the **KING/QUEEN OF THE KITCHEN CONTEST**. See Table of Contents Pg. 3

Rules:

- o Each exhibitor is limited to four (4) entries per class. Exhibitors name is not to be included on exhibit piece. Processing Labels may cover your name with blue "painters" tape.
- o Do not include quilts on entry forms with other Open Class entries; list all quilt entries on separate entry form.
- o Quilts consist of three layers held together by stitches.
- o Entry should be an example of your best work. (The work must not have been showed in past County Fairs).
- o Greatest care will be taken in handling the exhibits, but no responsibility for loss or damage of any kind can be assumed by the Open Class Superintendent, mesa County Fairgrounds or the Mesa County Executive Fair Board. The exhibitor must carry their own insurance for sensitive and highly value entries.
- o All work must be executed by one person including quilting stitches with exception, is the Group Division.
- o Open Class Vintage Quilts are for **Display Only, if there is room in the department.**

Divisions for Quilts:

Division 132 - Traditional Quilts

Division 133 - Art Quilts

Division 134 - Group Quilts (entry from must show the 2 or more persons who quilted the exhibit)

Division 135 - Wall Hanging (no size limitations)

Division 136 - Innovative Quilts (Wools, Yoyo, Puff, Crazy, Cathedral Windows, Original Designs, etc.)

Division 137 – Kit Quilts (must be labeled as such on the registration form)

Division 138 – Tied Comforters Quilt

Division 139 – Miniature Quilts (a scaled down version of a full-sized quilt with the longest side no more than 20")

Division 140 – Other Quilts

Divisions 132-139 Classes: (Techniques)

1. Any Appliqué hand only
2. Any Appliqué machine only
3. Any Embroidery, hand only
4. Any Embroidery, machine only
5. Any Panel, pre-printed
6. Any Paper Pierced
7. Any Photo
8. Any Pieced, hand only
9. Any Pieced, machine only
10. Any Quilt, hand only
11. Any Quilt, machine only
12. Any Whole Cloth
13. Any Fusible
14. Any Mixed Techniques

Division 140 Classes: Other Quilts (must be layered with batting & quilted)

1. Placemats/Table Runners
2. Other Quilted items not listed, please specify.

“Fair Theme” should be placed on the top of registration form if needed

Grand Champion Home Arts and Reserve Grand Champion QUILTING will judge from 1st place winners from Divisions 132-140.

1st place winners from each division will be judge from 1st place winners form Division Classes.

DEPARTMENT: CLOTHING TEXTILES & NEEDLEWORK

Entry Forms: Pre-registration is always encouraged. **Pre-registration ends Friday, June 26, 2026 at 5:00 PM at the Fairgrounds Office.**

Entry Forms found at mesacountyfair.org Fair Theme for 2026 is "**Sunshine & Sunflowers**".

Exhibit must have been done between August 2025 and July 2026.

Exhibits Received Day: See Page 5.

Exhibits Released Day: See Page 5.

Contest Note: This Department is a candidate for the **KING/QUEEN OF THE KITCHEN CONTEST**. See Table of Contents Pg. 3

Rules:

- o Each exhibitor is limited to three (3) entries per class. Exhibitors name is not to included on the exhibit piece.
- o All kits are acceptable and are required to be labeled as such on the registration form.
- o All work must be executed by one person except in the Group Division.
- o Used, worn or soiled items will not be accepted.
- o At the direction of the Open Class Superintendent and/or Judge classes may be combined.
- o The Open Class Superintendent has the right to reject the subject matter of a sensitive nature.
- o Knitted or crocheted collars, cuff, doilies and baby sets must be mounted on foam board or cardboard. All wall hangings must be ready to hang – NO TAPE. See Photography Rules.

Division: 141-147

Division 141 – Clothing Classes

1. Any Apron
2. Any Child Outfit
3. Any Cape
4. Any Doll Clothes
5. Any Adult Outfit
6. Any Other Clothing item not listed, please specify.

Division 142 – Textile Construction Classes:

1. Any Doll – Cloth, soft or Sculptured & Dressed
2. Any Fabric Bowl
3. Any Fabric Teddy Bear
4. Any Fabric Christmas Ornament(s) single or set of 3
5. Any Doll 15" & under
6. Any Other Textile Item not listed, please specify.

Division 143 – Embroidery, Crewel and/or Needle Point Classes:

1. Any Picture
2. Any Pillow
3. Any Apron
4. Any Wall Hanging
5. Any Christmas item, please identify.
6. Any Kitchen item, please identify.
7. Any Hardanger, please identify.
8. Any Chicken Scratch, please identify.
9. Any other Embroidery, Crewel and/or Needle Point

Division 144 Classes:

1. Counted
2. Preprinted

Division 145 – Crochet Classes:

1. Any Afghan
2. Any Baby Afghan and/or with Matching Booties
3. Any Cape or Caplet
4. Any Dish Classes
5. Any Doll with or without clothes
6. Any Hat
7. Any Pillow
8. Any Handbag or Purse
9. Any Wearable Item (seater, shawl, scarf, etc)

Division 146 – Knitting Classes:

1. Any Afghan
2. Any Baby Afghan and/or with Matching Booties
3. Any Cape or Caplet
4. Any Dish Classes
5. Any Handbag – Knitting
6. Any Doll over 15
7. Any Doll with or without clothes
8. Any Hat
9. Any Pillow
10. Any Handbag or Purse

Division 147 – Weaving Classes:

1. Any Woven Article (commercial yarn), please identify.
2. Harness Loomed (commercial yarn), please identify.
3. Any Woven or Harness Kit, please identify.

“Fair Theme” should be written on the registration form if needed

Grand Champion Home Arts and Reserve Grand Champion CLOTHING TEXTILES & NEEDLEWORK will judge from 1st place winners from Divisions 141-147.

1st place winners from each division will be judge from 1st place winners form Division Classes.

DEPARTMENT: WOODWORKING

Entry Forms: Pre-registration is always encouraged. **Pre-registration ends Friday, June 26, 2026 at 5:00 PM at the Fairgrounds Office.**

Entry Forms found at mesacountyfair.org Fair Theme for 2026 is "**Sunshine & Sunflowers**".

Exhibit must have been done between August 2025 and July 2026.

Exhibits Received Day: See Page 5.

Exhibits Released Day: See Page 5.

Rules:

- o Each exhibitor is limited to three (3) entries per class. Exhibitor s name is not to be included on exhibit piece.
- o All kits are acceptable and are required to be labeled as such on the registration form.
- o All work must be executed by one person except in the Group Division.
- o Any exhibit that is to be hung must be ready to hang, framed with strong fasteners and wire securely attached. NO TAPE Apply eye & screws if needed. Entries without proper hardware will not be accepted in the department. A “fix it” table will be available.
- o The Open Class Superintendent has the right to reject the subject matter of a sensitive nature.
- o Proper presentation of entry (no soiled, glue or clamp marks, or uneven staining).
- o Entry should always be an example of your best work.

Judges will consider entries on the basis of:

- o Originality of idea (absolutely no copying of any other piece)
- o Creativity
- o Technique (Judges are aware that some Class Techniques can overlap into others)

Division: 148-155

Division 148 – Wood Art/Wood Craft Classes:

1. Any Wall Hanging
2. Any Wall Pictures; may be painted or embellished with other metals, beads, rocks, etc.
3. Any Wooden Beading any size for jewelry, items submitted as a set will be entered as one (1) exhibit
4. Any Wood Sculpture using Stylized Carving or other means
5. Any Mixed Media of Woods using other elements such as metal, precious metals, accents, or inlay.

Division 149 – Wood Carving Classes:

1. Any Caricature Carving
2. Any Stylized Caricature Carving for this class other than Wood Art (above)
3. Any Relief Carving
4. Any Chip Carving
5. Any Gourd or Bark Carving
6. Any Realistic Carving
7. Mixed Media using inlay or precious stone or metal.

Division 150 – Wood Furniture Classes:

1. Tables
2. Chairs
3. Hutches
4. Hope Chest
5. Potato Bins
6. Bookshelves
7. Grandfather Clocks
8. Kitchen Islands

Division 151 – “From the Wood Pile”

Class:

1. Any work with projects developed from the log to finished product without the use of any power tools or fasteners. Can use joinery such as dowels, mortise and tenon, dove tail, spine joints, etc.

Division 152 Wood with a Purpose (any wooden device that will perform a function but uses no metal, plastic, or other non-wooden components – i.e. vices, clamps, gear works, etc.) does not have inlay Classes:

1. Cutting Board
2. Back Scratcher
3. Trivets
4. Any other Wood with a Purpose, please specify.

Division 153 – Wood Turning/Lathe Work Classes:

1. Bowls
2. Vases
3. Baseball Bats
4. Candle Sticks
5. Christmas Tree Ornaments
6. Any other Wood Turning/Lathe Work, please specify.

Division 154 – Wood Burning (any wooden item design using a wood burning tool) Classes:

1. Plaques
2. Wall Hangings
3. Boxes
4. Mixed Media
5. Any other Wood Burning, please specify.

Division 155 – Wood Craft (may use inlay) Classes:

1. Toys
2. Puzzles
3. Clocks
4. boxes with Lids
5. Birdhouses
6. Planter Box
7. Recipe Box
8. Any Wood Craft using a kit
9. Mixed Media
10. Any other Wood Craft, please specify.

“Fair Theme” should be placed on the top of the registration form if needed.

Grand Champion Home Arts and Reserve Grand Champion **WOODWORKING** will judge from 1st place winners from Divisions 148-155.

1st place winners from each division will be judge from 1st place winners form Division Classes.

DEPARTMENT: PANTRY STORE & FOOD PRESERVATION

Entry Forms: Pre-registration is always encouraged. **Pre-registration ends Friday, June 26, 2026 at 5:00 PM at the Fairgrounds Office.**

Entry Forms found at mesacountyfair.org Fair Theme for 2026 is "**Sunshine & Sunflowers**".

Exhibit must have been done between August 2025 and July 2026.

Exhibits Received Day: See Page 5.

Exhibits Released Day: See Page 5.

Note: Please read the following rules and all Food Safety Rules in its entirety before completing projects.

Contest Note: This Department is a candidate for the KING/QUEEN OF THE KITCHEN CONTEST. See Page 2

PANTRY – General Judging Rules for Food Preservation

Rule: **Safety is of the utmost importance. Contact CSU/Ann Duncan 970-244-1839 with questions regarding canning classes in Grand Junction, high altitude checking, or CSU Extension requirements using recipes from resources which use USDA recommendations for processing. Water bath gauges as well. Website information available at <http://tra.extension.colostate.edu> or email ann.duncan@colostate.edu.**

Any entry not in compliance with judging guidelines or exhibiting spoilage will be disqualified. **Quality criteria based on visual judging. Judges may refrain from tasting preserved food.**

- o Each exhibitor is limited to five (5) entries per class.
- o Exhibitor's name is not to shown on exhibit piece.
- o Entry submissions must have been canned by the person in whose name they have been entered except in Group Division
- o On Exhibits Received Day jars should be clean from dust/dirt, stickiness and in very good condition utilizing a two-piece canning lid with band and in very good condition with a new flat lid of same standard brand name. ONLY Ball and Kerr jars and bands/seals permitted. No decorative or off brands acceptable. No padded lids.
- o **Products canned using reusable lids will not be accepted.**
- o All canned food must be preserved using recipes from resources which use USDA recommendations for processing from canning information from 1994 or later. Acceptable recourses include, but are not limited to:
 - The USDA
 - CSU Extension Publications
 - Pectin Package Inserts
- o **Recipes and nutritional commentary are required on all entries.** The recipe must be affixed to the container and must include approved source of recipe (resources name, year published and page number or date accessed online and website link), ingredients, preparation instructions, method, time and temperature on a 3 x 5 recipe card. All artificial coloring used in baked products must be specified in the recipe.
- o Processes that are unacceptable and unsafe include: open kettle processing, inversion sealing, steam canning, paraffin sealed jellies & jams; as well as pickles, jams & jellies not processed in boiling water bath canner or water bath canning of low acid products (vegetables require pressure cooking).
- o No fresh/refrigerated items accepted, all items must be shelf safe.

FILLED JAR RULES

- o Headspace must correspond to instructions on the reference guides listed. The top of the finished recipe or liquid covering produce must provide adequate headspace as stated in approved guidelines.
- o Air Bubbles, must be kept to a minimum. (Gas bubbles denote spoilage and can be identified by movement of bubbles to the surface of the product while the jar is stationary. Products indicating presence of gas bubbles will be disqualified)
- o Bands should remain on the jars while in transit to the fair event. Remove bands carefully to determine if the headspace is correct. Replace bands for product display. The new canning science suggests storing canning jars without rings.
- o ONLY Ball and Kerr jars and bands/seals permitted. No decorative or off brands acceptable. No padded lids. Canned products with special cuts or design lids will not be accepted (example lids be Bernardin* or similar brand).

Heat Process Rules:

- o Methods used to heat process food must comply with current preserving guidelines as stated in the approved reference guides. The boiling water process for high-acid food and pressure process for low-acid foods are the only recommended

methods to preserve food in jars for shelf storage.

- o Time for correctly heat processing food varies depending on each specific recipe or food type. Processing time must be in agreement with approved reference guides.
- o Most of the finished product should be as close as possible to its natural characteristics or that for cooked product.
- o Texture is affected by heat processing; however, the finished product should not easily break down or appear over-cooked.

RULES CONCERNING PRODUCT APPEARANCE

- o Produce should be free from blemishes, disease, and spoilage. Recipes prepared with stems, pits and peels intact are acceptable if the recipe is in keeping with approved guidelines.
- o Ingredients should retain their shape and size based on the type and preparation method. Ingredients should be cut in uniform pieces and packed evenly in the jar, allowing adequate room for liquid to circulate throughout the jar during Processing.
- o Liquid must be clear & free from cloudiness and small particles unless inherent characteristics of ingredients affect product clarity.

Divisions 156-165

Division 156 – Fruits or Juice Classes:

1. Apples
2. Applesauce
3. Mixed Fruit, please specify.

Division 157 – Jam

Division 158 -Jelly Classes:

1. Apple
2. Apricot
3. Cherry, please specify.
4. Grape
5. Peach
6. Plum
7. Raspberry
8. Strawberry
9. Combinations, please specify.

Division 159 – Pickled Classes:

1. Asparagus
2. Beet Pickles
3. Dill Pickles
4. Bread and Butter Pickles
5. Any other peppers, please specify.

Division 160 - Relishes Classes:

1. Any Relish, please specify.
2. Any Barbeque Sauce, please specify.
3. Any Vinegar, please specify.
4. Any Salsa, please specify.
5. Any other Relish, Sauce, Vinegar or Salsa, please specify.

Division 161 – Vegetables or Vegetable Juice Classes:

1. Asparagus
2. Beans, please specify.
3. Tomatoes, please specify.

Division 162 – Syrups Classes:

1. Apricot
2. Cherry
3. Maple
4. Any other Fruit Syrup, please specify.

Division 163 – Dried Food Classes:

1. Any Fruit, please specify.
2. Any Meat, please specify.
3. Any other dried food, please specify.

Division 164 – Honey Classes:

1. Any single or combination, please specify.

Division 165 – Preserves, Conserves, Marmalades, Butters Classes:

1. Any single or combination Preserves, please specify.
2. Any single or combination Conserves, please specify.
3. Orange Marmalade
4. Any other Marmalade, please specify.
5. Apple Butter
6. Almond Butter
7. Peanut Butter
8. Any other Butter, please specify.

“Fair Theme” should be placed on the top of the registration form if needed.

Grand Champion Home Arts and Reserve Grand Champion **PANTRY** will judge from 1st place winners from Divisions 156-165.

1st place winners from each division will be judge from 1st place winners form Division Classes.

Jams and Other Sweet Spreads

Characteristic	<div>Excellent</div> <div>Very Good</div> <div>Good</div> <div>Poor</div>			
Pack Processed in boiling water canner with correct altitude adjustment made; no paraffin allowed.				
Jar filled to appropriate headspace (¼ inch).				
Color Fresh, natural color representative of dominant fruit: fruit pieces are translucent.				
Color uniform throughout.				
Free of discoloration, especially from scorching.				
Clarity Translucent and not "muddy" or cloudy looking, even though there is no separated jelled juice.				
Absence of crystals.				
Free of bubbles.				
Free of foreign matter (peel, seeds, etc.) and mold.				
Consistency Soft enough to spread; not runny or overly thick; not gummy or sticky.				
Fruit pieces are tender and hold their shape. Pieces of fruit are uniform in size.				
Fruit pieces evenly distributed throughout container. No separation or layering.				
Container Vacuum-sealed.				
Clean, <i>clear</i> glass <i>standard</i> canning jar.				
New lid and band free of rust; screwband clean, unbent and easily removed.				
Label clean, neatly placed and contains name of product, date processed, processing method and time.				
Flavor Natural flavor of the fruit; not overcooked, overly sweet or tart; no scorched flavor.				
Comments				

EXHIBITOR'S CORRECTION LIST FOR SCORE CARDS

Pack:

Color:

Clarity:

Consistency:

Container:

Flavor:

Comments from Exhibitor During Processing:

Jellies

Excellent
Very Good
Good
Poor

Characteristic	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Poor
Pack Processed in boiling water canner with correct altitude adjustment made; no paraffin allowed.				
Jar filled to appropriate headspace (¼ inch).				
Color Fresh, natural color representative of dominant fruit.				
Color uniform throughout.				
Clarity Free from cloudiness and fruit pulp (exception: pepper jelly).				
Absence of crystals.				
Free of bubbles.				
Free of foreign matter (peel, seeds, etc.) and mold.				
Consistency Firm enough to hold shape.				
Tender, not too stiff or tough- "quivery".				
Stays in one mass when shaken loose from jar: does not break.				
No separation or layering.				
Holds sharp edge when cut.				
Container Vacuum-sealed.				
Clean, clear glass standard canning jar.				
New lid and band free of rust; screwband clean, unbent and easily removed.				
Label clean, neatly placed and contains name of product, date processed, processing method and time.				
Flavor Natural flavor of the fruit; not overcooked, overly sweet or tart; no scorched flavor.				
Comments				

EXHIBITOR'S CORRECTION LIST FOR SCORE CARDS

Pack:

Color:

Clarity:

Consistency:

Container:

Flavor:

Comments from Exhibitor During Processing:

Fruit Preserves

Characteristic				
Pack				
Processed in boiling water canner with correct altitude adjustment made; no open kettle canning.				
Jar filled to appropriate headspace (¼ inch).				
Liquid covers all solids; no floating pieces.				
Good proportion of solids and liquids.				
Quality of Fruit				
Pieces uniform in size and shape.				
Fresh, natural color to fruit; uniformly translucent and characteristic of cooked product.				
Pieces retain shape; firm yet tender; free of mushiness; clean cut edges to cut pieces.				
Fruit free from discoloration, blemishes, bruises, brown or black spots, insect damage.				
Quality of Syrup				
Syrup or jellied juice is clear, and bright in color. Syrup in most preserves appears thick to "heavy" like honey and surrounds all fruit.				
Free from any sediment, unintended seeds, peels, or other particles such as fibers, core and strings.				
Free from foam or large amounts of trapped air; few bubbles.				
Container				
Vacuum-sealed.				
Clean, clear glass standard canning jar.				
New lid and band free of rust; screwband clean, unbent and easily removed.				
Label clean, neatly placed and contains name of product, date processed, processing method and time.				
Flavor				
Natural flavor of the fruit; not too sweet or strong from overcooking.				
Comments				

Excellen
 Very Good
 Good
 Poor

DEPARTMENT: BAKED GOODS

Rule: **Safety is of the utmost importance. Contact CSU/Ann Duncan 970-244-1839 with questions regarding canning classes in Grand Junction, high altitude checking, or CSU Extension requirements using recipes from resources which use USDA recommendations for processing. Water bath gauges as well. Website information available at <http://tra.extension.colostate.edu> or email ann.duncan@colostate.edu.**

Any entry not in compliance with judging guidelines or exhibiting spoilage will be disqualified. **Quality criteria based on visual judging. Judges may refrain from tasting preserved food.**

- o Each exhibitor is limited to two (2) entries per class. (for the KING/QUEEN OF THE KITCHEN CONTEST see Page 2)
- o Exhibitor's name is not to shown on the exhibit piece. Entry submissions must have been backed by the person in whose name they have entered except in the Group Division.
- o At the discretion of the Open Class Superintendent and/or judge, classes may be combined or divided.
- o Exhibits must have been completed between August 2025 and July 2026.

Exhibits Received Day: See Page 5.

Exhibits Released Day: See Page 5.

o **Recipe and nutritional commentary are required on all entries in Baked Goods Department.** The recipe must be affixed to the container and must include approved source of recipe (resource's name, year published and page number or date accessed online and website link), ingredients, preparation instructions, method, time, and temperature on a 3 x 5 recipe or index card. All artificial coloring used in baked products must be specified in recipe.

o All baked products must be labeled properly. Label must include the following:

Name of Product

Method of Preparation

Recipe and nutritional commentary

o All divisions in Baked Goods must be home prepared. NO MIXES

o All baked entries must be on or in a disposable container. Delivery of baked entries on anything besides disposable container(s) will be turned away from submission.

o No CRÈME PIES or CHEESECAKES

Divisions 166-170:

Division 166 – Bread Classes:

1. Gluten Free Quick Bread, any type (1)
2. 100% Whole Wheat Loaf (1)
3. Banana Bread Loaf (1)
4. Biscotti (4)
5. Crackers (6)
6. Corn Tortillas (4)
7. Coffee Cake, Tea Breads, no yeast (1)
8. Doughnuts, no yeast (6)
9. Foreign Bread, no yeast (1)
10. Grain Bread, any grain, no yeast (1)
11. Muffins, no paper cups (4)
12. Zucchini Bread Loaf (1)
13. Any other Quick Bread not listed above (1)

Division 167 – Pies Classes:

1. Single Crust
2. Double Crust
3. Crumb Crust
4. Any other Pie, please specify.

Division 168 – Cakes (**Exhibits will not have any frosting, glazes, or powdered sugar, except the Decorated Bake Goods Division) Decorated cakes can have frosting. Cakes should be placed on a very firm, disposable surface, cut parallel to the shape of the cake and no more than 1 ½" larger in each direction that the dimensions of the cake. The surface should be covered with a food safe covering suitable for the shape of the Baked Good entry. The decorated classes are in bold**)

1. Cake, white (1)
2. Cake, yellow (1)
3. Cake, carrot (1)
4. Cake, spice (1)
5. Cake, chiffon (1)
6. Cake, angel food (1)

Division 169 – Good for Your Health

This division is for modified or substituted ingredients in a recipe that reduces fat, calories or sugar. General rules apply. Example: Gluten Free (modified for health)

Division 170 – Cookies Classes:

1. Bars
2. Decorated Cookies (6)
3. Drop (6)
4. Brownies (6)
5. Pressed (6)
6. No Bake (6)
7. Molded or Rolled (6)
8. Refrigerator (6)
9. Any other Cookie variety, please specify. (6)
10. Cupcakes and Cookies (6)

Division 171 – Candies & Confections Classes:

1. Brittle (6)
2. Butterscotch & Toffee (6)
3. Caramels (6)
4. Dipped Chocolates (6)
5. Divinity/Nougat (6)
6. Fudge, dark (6)
7. Fudge, white (6)
8. Fudge, any variety, please specify.
9. Hard Candy (6)
10. Jellied Candy (6)
11. Mints (6)
12. No Cook (6)
13. Penuche (6)
14. Taffy (6)
15. Candy, any other variety, please specify. (6)

“Fair Theme” should be placed on the top of registrations form if needed.

Grand Champion Home Arts and Reserve Grand Champion **BAKED GOODS** will judge from 1st place winners from Divisions 166-171.

1st place winners from each division will be judge from 1st place winners form Division Classes.

Baked Goods Foods Judging Sheet

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Comment,
General Appearance of Product					
Color					
Crust or Outer Covering					
Shape and Volume					
Texture					
Crumb. Moist or Dry					
Consistency					
Tenderness					
Flavor					

Department: AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE – GARDEN VEGETABLES & CROPS

Entry Forms: Pre-registration is always encouraged. **Pre-registration ends Friday, June 26, 2026 at 5:00 PM at the Fairgrounds Office.**

Entry Forms found at mesacountyfair.org Fair Theme for 2026 is "**Sunshine & Sunflowers**".

Exhibit must have been done between August 2025 and July 2026.

Exhibits Received Day: See Page 5.

Exhibits Released Day: See Page 5.

Note: Please read the following rules and all Food Safety Rules in its entirety before completing projects.

Contest Note: This Department is a candidate for the KING/QUEEN OF THE KITCHEN CONTEST. See Page 2

Rules:

- o Each exhibitor is limited to five (5) entries per class. Exhibitor's name is not to be shown on exhibit piece.
- o Select Agriculture and Vegetable/Fruit exhibits for uniformity in size, color, and free from insects, disease, or mechanically injury.
- o All exhibits should be clean.
- o Agriculture exhibits will be judged for market use.
- o Vegetables/Fruits will be judged for table use.
- o Exhibit the number of specimens in parentheses.

Divisions 172-175:

Division 172 – Agriculture (Agronomy) Classes: (twelve (12) stems tied together constitutes a bundle)

1. Corn (6 stalks with roots removed)
2. Barley (12 stems – 1 bundle)
3. Oats (12 stems – 1 bundle)
4. Wheat (12 stems – 1 bundle)
5. Alfalfa (12 stems – 1 bundle)
6. Hay (12 stems – 1 bundle)
7. Clover (12 stems – 1 bundle)
8. Grass (12 stems – 1 bundle)
9. Sorghums (12 stems – 1 bundle)

Division 173 – Herbs Classes:

1. Dill
2. Lavender
3. Mint
4. Parsley
5. Oregano
6. Thyme
7. Sage
8. Herb, any other variety

It is recommended that a little water in a clear plastic container keeps herbs in condition in time for judging.

Division 174 – Eggs (Five (5) total consistent size and shape) Classes:

1. Same Color
2. Multiple Colors

Division 175 – Horticulture (Garden Vegetables/Fruit Crops) Classes:

1. Green Beans (with 12 stems attached)
2. Yellow Beans (with 12 stems attached)
3. Bean any other variety (with 12 stems attached)
4. Broccoli (1 head)
5. Cabbage (1 head)
6. Carrots (4 with 2" tops and roots attached)
7. Cauliflower (1 head)
8. Cucumbers, pickles (3)
9. Cucumbers, slicers (3)
10. Cucumbers, burpless (3)
11. Cucumbers, any other variety (3), please specify.
12. Fruits, apples (6)
13. Fruits, peaches (6)
14. Fruits, strawberries (6)
15. Fruits, raspberries (12)
16. Fruits, any other variety (12)
17. Garlic, (1 bulb with 2" top)
18. Kale (1 head)
19. Lettuce (1 head)
20. Lettuce, Bibb (1 head)
21. Lettuce, Green Leaf (1 head)
22. Lettuce, Romaine (1 head)
23. Onions, white (3 with 1/2 "tops)
24. Onions, yellow (3 with 1/2" tops)

"Fair Theme" should be place at the top of the registration form if needed.

Grand Champion Home Arts and Reserve Grand Champion **AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE – GARDEN VEGETABLES & CROPS** will judge from 1st place winners from Divisions 172-175.

1st place winners from each division will be judge from 1st place winners form Division Classes.

Horticulture

Dept: _____

Name: _____

Section: _____

Exhibit Placing: _____

Class#: _____

	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement	Comments
Meets Fair Criteria				
General Appearance				
Neatness/Cleanliness				
Uniformity of size, shape & color				
Condition (freedom from injury, defects, disease)				
Maturity/Ripeness				
Freshness/Firmness				
Tenderness				
Flavor				

DEPARTMENT: FLORICULTURE & FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Entry Forms: Pre-registration is always encouraged. **Pre-registration ends Friday, June 26, 2026 at 5:00 PM at the Fairgrounds Office.**

Entry Forms found at mesacountyfair.org Fair Theme for 2026 is "**Sunshine & Sunflowers**".

Exhibit must have been done between August 2025 and July 2026.

Exhibits Received Day: See Page 5.

Exhibits Released Day: See Page 5.

Note: **Please read the following rules and all Food Safety Rules in its entirety before completing projects.**

Contest Note: This Department is a candidate for the KING/QUEEN OF THE KITCHEN CONTEST. See Page 2

Rules:

- o Each exhibitor is limited to five (5) entries per class. Exhibitor's name is not to be shown on exhibit piece.
- o Exhibit(s) must have been completed between August 2025 and July 2026.
- o All cut flowers must have been grown by the exhibitor. Any exhibitor is allowed to replace wilted flowers after the day of judging. Please check with the Open Class Superintendent first.

Remember the Department Lead's Theme: "Busy Bees"

Divisions 176-178:

Division 176 – Flowers Classes:

1. Aster (3)
2. Marigold Miniatures (5) 3/4" -1 3/4"
3. Bachelor Buttons (3)
4. Nasturtiums (3)
5. Columbine (3)
6. Pansies (3)
7. Coneflower (3)
8. Petunia – single (3)
9. Chrysanthemum (3)
10. Petunia – double (3)
11. Cosmos (6)
12. Phlox (3)
13. Dahlia – over 8" (1)
14. Rose
15. Dahlia – under 8" (2)
16. Rose Miniature (1 cluster)
17. Daisy (3)
18. Sweet Pea (3)
19. Delphinium
20. Snapdragon (2)
21. Gladioli
22. Sunflower (2)
23. Gaillardia, blanket flower (3)
24. Zinnia (3)
25. Lily and Day Lilies (2)
26. Marigold (3)
27. Flower, or any Pollinating Attracting Flower, please specify (3)

Division 177 – Flower Arrangements Classes:

1. Dried Flowers
2. Fresh Flower Arrangement

Division 178 – Potted Plants Classes:

1. Flower
2. Foliage
3. Fairy Garden
4. Hanging Baskets – Flower
5. Hanging Baskets – Foliage
6. Cacti and/or succulent
7. Terrarium
8. Themes – **2026 Flower Department Theme: "Busy Bees"**
2026 Fair Theme: "Sunshine and Sunflowers"
9. Unique Container (with plants being exhibited inside a unique container like a Bee.)
10. Potted Plants, any other please specify

"Fair Theme" should be written at the top of the registration form if needed.

Grand Champion Home Arts and Reserve Grand Champion **FLORICULTURE** will judge from 1st place winners from Division 176 Classes

Grand Champion Home Arts and Reserve Grand Champion **FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS** will judge from 1st place winners from Divisions 177-178.

1st place winners from each division will be judge from 1st place winners form Division Classes.

Judges Sheets for Floral and Floral Arrangements

Floriculture

Dept. _____

Name:

Section _____

Class # _____

Exhibit Placing

	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement	Communication
Meets Fair Book Criteria				
General Appearance				
Neatness/Cleanliness				
True to Type				
Free of Blemishes (Insect/Disease/etc.)				
Maturity				
Foliage				
Proportion				
Size/Color/Shape				

Floral Arrangements

Dept. _____

Name: _____

Section _____

Class # _____

Exhibit Placing _____

	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement	Communication
Meets Fair Book Criteria				
General Appearance				
Neatness/Cleanliness				
Condition of Foliage				
Condition of Flowers				
Originality				
Creativity				
Interpretation of Theme				
Size/Color/Shape				

DEPARTMENT: BEER and WINE

Entry Forms: Pre-registration is always encouraged. **Pre-registration ends Friday, June 26, 2026 at 5:00 PM at the Fairgrounds Office.**

Entry Forms found at mesacountyfair.org Fair Theme for 2026 is "**Sunshine & Sunflowers**".

Exhibit must have been done between August 2025 and July 2026.

Exhibits Received Day: See Page 5.

Exhibits Released Day: See Page 5.

Note: Please read the following rules and all Food Safety Rules in its entirety before completing projects.

Contest Note: This Department is a candidate for the KING/QUEEN OF THE KITCHEN CONTEST. See Page 2

Rules:

- o Each exhibitor is limited to three (3) entries per class. Exhibitor's name is not to be shown on exhibit piece.
- o QUANTITY: One (1) 750 ml or equivalent bottle.
- o Exhibitors must be 21 years old or older.
- o Label with variety type, no commercial label is allowed.

Divisions 179-181 for Beer:

Division 179 – Ale Classes:

1. Pale
2. Brown

Division 180 – Larger

3. Light
4. Dark
5. Steam

Division 181 – Specialty Classes:

1. Belgian, please specify.
2. Fruit, please specify.
3. Honey
4. Any other Beer, please specify.

Grand Champion Home Arts and Reserve Grand Champion **BEER** will judge from 1st place winners from Divisions 179-181.

1st place winners from each division will be judge from 1st place winners form Division Classes

Divisions 182-184 Divisions for Wine:

Division 182 – Grape Wine Classes:

1. Chardonnay
2. Sauvignon Blanc
3. Zinfandel
4. Cabernet Sauvignon
5. Rosé & Blanc Noir Wines
6. Any other grape, please specify.

Division 183 – Non-Grape
Classes:

1. Barley
2. Mead
3. Any other Non-Grape Wine, please specify. (Fruit Wines included unless Organic)

Division 184 – Organic Wines Classes:

1. Organic Red
2. Organic White
3. Any other Organic, please specify.

Grand Champion Home Arts and Reserve Grand Champion **WINE** will judge from 1st place winners from Divisions 182-184.

1st place winners from each division will be judge from 1st place winners form Division Classes

<p>PERMISSION TO PICK UP LIABILITY FORM</p>
<p>Families with multiple entries excluded</p>

<p>PERMISSION TO PICK UP LIABILITY FORM</p>
<p>Families with multiple entries excluded</p>

The Release Person MUST Have a Driver's License

I, _____ give permission for _____ to pick up my exhibits.
Print Name of Exhibitor Print Name of Other Person

Signature: _____

Date: _____

*I am the person picking up Fair Exhibits with permission: _____

Signature

Date: _____

[illegible]

**Superintendent or Processing Lead Cuts Along Line
For Open Class Superintendent Records Only**

Name: _____

***Driver's License #** _____

*State: _____

Open Class Superintendent's or Processing Lead's Signature after the below chart is fill out:

Date: _____

Exhibit Numbers

Brief Description (s) are:

[illegible]

Continue on back page if not enough room

Mesa County Fair 2026
Open Class Exhibit Form

Exhibitor Name(s): (When Group effort is involved, please see chart section)

Mailing Address: City, State, Zip:

Email Address: Phone:

Exhibit Tag Numbers are used when entries are submitted for Open Class Exhibit

Table with 5 columns: # of Exhibits, Exhibit Tag #, Division #, Class #, Description of Entry, Name of Entry, Variety, Etc. Rows 1-10.

NOTE: All Exhibits not fitting into or mentioned in any of the Department Guidelines will be placed in the Class #9999, to include a brief description of the item including the media(s), technique, or material the item is made of. A call will follow the following year. Example: Department: Home Arts Division115: Recycled/Reclaimed Class #9999 Description Copper Pipe Key Holder. WE DO NOT TURN AWAY ANY EXHIBIT.

Entrant's Section

Box for Entrant's Section

(Enter Corresponding Group Designation from the chart Section listing and place in box.)



Chart Section:
(E) Elementary – Child 8 years old or younger.
(Y) Youth – 9-13 years old.
(IY) Intermediate Youth- 14-18 years old.
(A) 19 years and older – Non-professional.
(G) Group – more than exhibitor working on some exhibit. May adult or child.
(C) Any handicap that is affected performance skill in that class.
(P) Adults who have income using exhibits entered. Must have at least 25% of yearly income with previous year using those exhibits entered. Exhibitor may file a business card at processing with the Open Class Coordinator.
(SS) Over 80 years old will be designated as Silver Seniors.
(V) Veteran – Any Exhibitors who can show proof of valid DD Form 214 or VA Patient card.

By signing the 2026 Exhibit Form I acknowledge that I have read all the Rules and Guidelines on pages 1 and 2, and each Department Rules of the 2026 Guidebook.

Exhibitor's Signature: Exhibitor's Signature if in a Group Effort:

Date: Date:

Please call or text the Open Class Superintendent at 970-644-2738 if questions or items over 3 ft. tall or 50 pounds. Pre-registration is Always Encouraged.
Questions: Mesa County Fairgrounds 2785 Hwy 6 & 50, Grand Junction, CO 81503 970-255-7107.